

BLAINE COUNTY FIRE MITIGATION PLAN

Background

The Blaine County Community at Risk encompasses an area of 2,660.57 square miles or 1,702,765.84 acres located in the mountainous central portion of Idaho. The State of Idaho owns approximately 4% of the county's overall land mass. All federal lands within the county are estimated to total 78%. Private lands total 450 square miles or approximately 18% of lands within Blaine County.

The total net value of taxable property for the 2004 to 2005 Blaine County Budget is \$8,060,841,150. The population growth rate for Blaine County averages 3.65% per year relative to a total population that is currently estimated to be 21,000.¹ Private properties that are within and protected by a fire jurisdiction total 351.3 square miles or approximately 72% of Blaine County private lands. Blaine County fire agencies protect approximately 13% of the total land area in Blaine County.

The elevations within Blaine County range from the lowest elevation of 3,100 feet above sea level to the highest elevation of 11,900 feet above sea level. Most of the populated areas are located between 4,000 and 6,000 feet above sea level.

Vegetation types in Blaine County are predominantly sage brush steppe, coniferous forest stands including Douglas fir and Lodgepole pine, scattered aspen stands associated with conifer stands, and cottonwood, willow and alder riparian zones. Currently the United States Forest Service is working on fuels reduction project in the Warm Springs Drainage on Federal Land that abuts Ketchum Rural Fire Protection District within Blaine County.

This fire mitigation plan and others in Blaine County are funded by a grant from the US Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management. Grants are provided specifically for Communities at Risk as designated in the Federal Register. This Fire Mitigation Plan covers the Bellevue Fire Department, the Carey Rural Fire Protection District, the Smiley Creek Rural Fire Protection District, West Magic Fire Protection District and the remaining areas of private property in Blaine County that are not protected by an organized fire protection agency. Two other Fire Mitigation Plans have been created concurrently with this Plan. They are the **Wood River and City of Hailey Fire Mitigation Plan** and the **Ketchum Rural Fire Mitigation Plan**. The City of Sun Valley Fire Department Fire Mitigation Plan was completed in 2002 as a test project with funding provided by the Bureau of Land Management through the Communities at Risk program. It is expected that the City of Sun Valley Fire Department will continue to utilize their specific Fire Mitigation Plan. Other fire mitigation plans that have been completed through funding under the Communities at Risk granting program are available for review at the National Fire Plan website: www.fireplan.gov.

¹ Statistics from the Blaine County Financial Report www.co.blaine.id.us/blaine%20County%20Insertx.pdf

CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES OF AREA FIRE AGENCIES

Carey Rural Fire District Fire Chief John Adamson

The Carey Fire District protects the City of Carey, Gannett, Picabo and the rural areas of the fire district with fire stations in Carey, Gannett and Picabo.

The area protected within the city consists of commercial and residential properties in a *rural* environment (less than 400 persons per square mile) with a Wildland/Urban Interface and Wildland/Urban Intermix as defined in the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1143.

The area protected within the rural fire district consists mainly of residential and agricultural properties in a *rural* environment (less than 400 persons per square mile). There are a few light industrial uses and mercantile uses. Much of the land protected involves or abuts the world-class fishing and avian habitat of the Silver Creek Preserve.

The personnel of the department/district consist of 10-15 personnel operating out of three stations. All members are volunteers. The department also provides Emergency Medical Services Quick Response augmented by the transport service of the Wood River Fire District at the paramedic level.

The location of the Headquarters Station is in the City of Carey. Station 2 is located in Picabo and a third station is located in Gannett. (A recent fire destroyed the Gannett Fire Station and all its equipment).

The apparatus of the combined district and department are two (2) Type I Structure Engines, two (2) Type II Structure Engines, two (2) Type III Wildland Engines, one (1) Type 7 Wildland Engine/Extrication Unit, one (1) Type II Water Tender, two (2) Type III Water Tenders, one (1) ambulances, one (1) command units.

Chief Adamson conducts a Wildland Firefighting Training Program that is currently being used to meet the objectives for basic wildland training. This is not formalized to lead to certification but teaches the basic skills necessary to conduct basic wildland firefighting.

Two firefighters recently attended wildland training presented by the Southeastern Idaho Fire School to obtain certifications.

Classes are scheduled to be conducted by the South Central Idaho Cooperators (SCIC) in Bellevue. This was determined following a survey of all Blaine County Cooperators. The survey noted that of all the students throughout the SCIC the majority was located in Blaine County. This led to the establishment of classes within Blaine County. This location is still distant to Carey and arrangements are being made to have wildland training presented there by the Bureau of Land Management.

Some noted obstacles to wildland training with the Cooperative are:

- Classes are currently too distant
- The volunteers have serious time constraints on their available time.

Desired outcomes of the Fire Mitigation Plan:

- Improve Firefighter Safety
- Target Fire Hazards and Risks

- Reduce Wildland/Urban Interface Risk
- Reduce fuel loading – particularly where the sagebrush is adjacent to homes and farmland
- Help adapt fire services to Blaine Counties' growth.
- Streamline and standardize Wildland Fire Training for all agencies.
- Develop a community awareness of the need for notification of the fire district in cases of "Open Burning". This is to prevent the unnecessary response of resources where fires are controlled.

Current fire prevention / public fire education programs:

- Education of Boy Scouts in fire safety

What would you like to see implemented regarding fire prevention/public fire safety education?

- Use of BLM personnel in conducting public education during the summer months. This program has worked well in the past. A BLM Fire Station is proposed on the fire department property. The fire chief would like to cooperate with BLM crews at the BLM fire station to expand the previous program of cooperation of public education.
- A recommendation of Hollis Pincock, a Carey schoolteacher, is to encourage students to use the www.Firewise.org website to learn what they can do to promote wildland fire safety. Mr. Pincock would also be interested in the development of a firefighter/EMT recruiting program in the school for eligible students.

Communications

- The Carey District has mobile and portable radios in all their vehicles. The age of the radios varies and the maximum scanning capability is 16 channels, which will not allow interoperability of all agencies in the area.
- Agencies operate on different frequencies and in the short term a radio operational plan is being devised to help overcome some deficiencies in this area. (See attachment)
- E911 is being implemented through a phone levy within Blaine County. The monies currently available do not meet the needs of the agencies to overcome the interoperability problem between police, fire, emergency medical services and the federal agencies. This will be compounded when the federal agencies meet the federal mandate to switch to narrow band digital technology by 2005¹. Rural agencies currently possess wide band equipment.
- Radio coverage of the current frequencies is deficient in many areas as noted in the mapping analysis completed by Alpine Enterprises in 2004². This is noted as a common problem in the Gannett and Fish Creek areas.
- Mobile Data Technology is not available for vehicle response to incidents that would provide mapping, history of prior incidents and most importantly visual acknowledgement of the necessary response information such as address, situation status, water source location and any other responding units. This would greatly reduce the amount of radio traffic and insure acknowledgment of correct information.
- The current frequencies are set aside as National Fire Mutual Aid frequencies:
 - 154.265 (Red)
 - 154.280 (White)
 - 154.295 (Blue)

¹National Wildland Coordinating Group, Meeting Minutes, Nov 14-15 2000, Boise, ID

² Alpine Enterprises Radio Coverage Overlay dated 00/00/2004.

Current Code Analysis

- Current adopted code is Blaine County Ordinance 02-04. The fire chief in the limits of the City of Carey applies this code also.
- A fireworks provision requires a permit to sell fireworks and limits the dates of sale and use of those fireworks. Sale of fireworks is limited to “Non-aerial Common Fireworks only”.
- Current building codes do not take into consideration the impact of the wildland/interface problem as it relates to exterior construction and the use of solid wood products for roofing materials.
- A minimum 30-foot clear zone is required as approved by the fire official.
- A Class “A” roof assembly required on structures exceeding 3,000 square feet. The code allows the use of solid wood products as roofing materials.
- The fire flow requirements of Appendix B of the International Fire Code are exempted from the Blaine County Fire Code. This results in lower fire flow requirements for structures in the county.
- The use of ponds and other similar static water sources for decoration and/or fire protection are contrary to the Blaine County Board of Commissioners water policy discouraging such uses.
- Blaine County is designated as a “Community at Risk” from wildfire in the list of such communities in the Federal Register.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Firefighters are required to be equipped with Personal Protective Equipment that meets the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1977. This includes a fire resistant shirt and pants, helmet, eye protection, leather gloves, 8” tall lace up leather boots and a fire shelter.
- It is recommended that each person has a backpack for personal equipment and at least 2 quarts of drinking water.
- It is recommended that a cache of ten percent of all Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be available for replacement of PPE that becomes unserviceable at an incident.
- The Carey/Picabo Rural Fire Agency replaces equipment on an as needed basis if funds are available. A total of thirty-two sets of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are needed using the number of apparatus positions to be covered as the means of counting. The department currently has approximately 12 sets of PPE according to the fire chief. Additional funding will be required to increase the number of sets of Personal Protective Equipment required on an annual basis.

Water Supplies for domestic and fire flows

- Chief Adamson has concerns that the available water supply is becoming deficient with the area growth.
- Two wells have been drilled without success in obtaining water.
- Lack of adequate water for fire fighting can put the community at risk and reduce the fire insurance rate classification.

Staffing

- Recruitment and retention of volunteers is an on-going problem.
- There is the loss of daytime volunteers, as they tend to work out of the area.

Wildland Urban Interface Apparatus

TYPE	UNIT ID	MODEL	USEFUL LIFE	CAFS	Tank	Pump
T1	ENGINE 1	79 ALF Pumper	0 Year	No	1000	500
T1	ENGINE 4	79 GMC Pumper	0 Years	No	1000	500
T2	ENGINE 14	56 WLF Pumper	0 Years	No	750	500
T2	ENGINE 12	55 Internat Pumper	0 Years	No	500	500
WT2	TENDER 18	80 Mack Tender	0 Years	No	4000	500
WT3	TENDER 3	73 Internat Tender	0 Years	No	200	1500
WT3	TENDER 5	84 Internat Tender	0 Years	No	500	2200
WE3	WL ENGINE 2	56 Internat WE	0 Years	No	500	800
WE3	WL ENGINE 15	69 Kaiser WE	0 Years	No	500	750
WE7	WL ENGINE 71	95 GMC WE	11 Years	No	100	200

Command Vehicles

Command		86 4x4 Chevrolet	2 Years			
Quick Resp.		88 4x4 Ford	4 Years			
Destroyed	by fire					

NOTE: The apparatus highlighted in yellow was destroyed in a propane gas explosion and fire that consumed the building and apparatus with all equipment. This equipment is not scheduled for replacement until such time as funds become available. Response aid is being provided by local agencies in the interim.

All but 3 pieces of equipment are over 20 years old and considered by industry standards to be obsolete due to the lack of many current safety items. Funding sources such as the Fire Act and Rural Assistance Grants are possible avenues to pursue.

Wildland Equipment

- Recommend the department use the Bureau of Land Management Rural Assist Grant Program for additional needs.
- Funding can be an issue as the federal budget priorities shift.

Fire History

- The department has responded to an inordinate number of wildland arson and suspicious fires during the last several years. No suspects have been arrested and concerns are additional arson may occur with loss of crops and habitat.

Fuel Loading

- See mapping provided by Alpine Enterprises Inc.

IDAHO SURVEY AND RATING BUREAU CLASSIFICATION

The Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau assigns fire protection classes to the Carey Fire Protection District for the purposes of establishing advisory insurance rates. Class 1 is the most favorable rate with Class 10 being unprotected.

In the Carey Rural Fire District:

- Class 7 applies to all properties within 600 feet of an approved fire hydrant served by the Carey Water District, Picabo Water Supply and the Gannett Subdivision.
- Class 8 applies to all properties within 5 miles of the Carey or Picabo Fire Station.
- Class 9 applies to all other properties within 10 miles of the Carey or Picabo Fire Station.
- All other property 10 miles from either fire station is Class 10.

The classification results are not a comprehensive review of all aspects of a public fire protection program and should not be used for purposes other than insurance pricing. Many factors concerning life and property safety need a more complete analysis to address the community fire problem. The survey does not differentiate between properties in an urban setting versus a wildland/urban setting. However the individual insurance companies will likely attach a surcharge to insurance premiums for homes with a solid wood product roof.

The rating schedule does not differentiate between communities having 9-1-1 and Enhanced 9-1-1. Enhanced 9-1-1 improves life and property protection many times over by providing quick access to the location of the caller reporting the emergency. The rating system is silent also on the issue of interoperability of communications between all agencies, which is necessary for the large-scale conflagrations in the wildland/urban intermix. There are many other areas of fire protection not evaluated to the extent needed to give a community its life and property safety rating.

The schedule is a good indicator of many needs for fire protection. The Carey Rural Fire District survey shows that fire district improvements having the most impact on lowering insurance rates would be:

1. Improve the water supply and extend it to other areas.
2. Training and documentation.
3. Add to the number personnel.
4. Improve the distribution of companies throughout the district.

Keep in mind the above improvements would impact insurance rates not necessarily life safety. The primary concern of Fire Districts is life safety and additional improvements are sometimes needed to meet the challenges of fire in that regard. Wildland Interface problems increase the need for specialized interface apparatus and trained personnel to combat fires in the initial stages. This helps prevent conflagrations and allows for orderly evacuation of people and the response of outside agencies.

Possible considerations to reducing the deficiencies in Water Supply, Additional Personnel, Training Documentation and Distribution of Companies

1. Additional water capacity and storage. Extend the hydrant system to within 600 feet of protected properties.
2. Provide and document all necessary training.
3. Develop a recruiting program and provide rewards and recognition to current and new members that increase retention.

4. The rating survey was conducted prior to construction of the Gannett Station and does not reflect the benefit of this relocation of companies. Now that the station is destroyed it is imperative that it be rebuilt to improve the Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau rating in the future.

Fire and Building Codes and the Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau

Fire and building codes are not a part of the Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau rating consideration. Code officials have a strong desire to improve fire and building codes to address the urban interface problem. They note many problems with the allowed roof coverings, exterior siding, minimal clear zones, minimal access requirements and the shortage of enforcement resources. Establishment of fuel mapping can possibly lead to the enactment of a “Wildland/Urban Interface Code” adopted by many other jurisdictions in the interface.

CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES OF AREA FIRE AGENCIES

Bellevue Department of Public Safety Fire Division Chief Dennis Cannon

The Bellevue Fire Division protects the City of Bellevue under the Bellevue Department of Public Safety. Dennis Cannon is the Fire Chief.

The area protected within the city consists of commercial and residential properties in a *suburban* environment (400-2000 people per square mile) with a wildland urban interface and wildland urban intermix as defined in National Fire Protection Association Standard 1143.

The personnel of the department consist of approximately 11 volunteer personnel operating out of a central station. The department participates in the County Mutual Aid Plan and has an auto-aid agreement with the Wood River Fire Prevention District, the Carey Rural Fire District and the City of Hailey fire agencies. The location of the Headquarters Station is on Main Street in the city.

The apparatus of the department are one (1) Type I Structure Engine, (1) Type 6 Wildland Engine, (1) Type 3 Water Tender and one (1) command/transport unit.

Three firefighters have completed basic wildland training recently. All firefighters are encouraged to attend classes presented by the Southeastern Idaho Cooperative to obtain certifications as desired. Bellevue firefighters are not red card certified.

Classes are scheduled to be conducted by the South Central Idaho Cooperators (SCIC) in Bellevue. This was determined following a survey conducted of all Blaine County Cooperators. The survey noted that of all the students throughout the SCIC the majority was located in Blaine County. This led to the establishment of classes within Blaine County.

Some noted obstacles to wildland training with the Cooperative are:

- Time constraints of volunteers are tight given their commitment to fulltime jobs and families
- Credit is not available for previous training such as Essentials of Firefighting for structural firefighters.

Desired outcomes of the Fire Mitigation Plan:

- Improve Firefighter Safety
- Target Fire Hazards and Risks
- Reduce Wildland/Urban Interface Risk through fuel reduction.
- Bring Building Officials, Planners and Fire Officials together.
- Improve the public's awareness of the Wildland Interface Risk.
- Establish better code compliance with local ordinances.
- Bring contractors, architects, Landscape architects and fire officials together.
- Create a greater awareness and compliance with the National Fire Plan, fire and building codes, and the wildland fire risk.
- Determine the need for water supply improvements.
- Improve fire agency Interoperability between federal and local levels.
- Provide solutions to the limitations of the Emergency Communications system.
- Reduce fuel loading especially in areas along the river.
- Help adapt the fire service to Bellevue's growth.

- Streamline and standardize Wildland Fire Training for all agencies.
- Show the Impact of fire on the economy.

Currently fire prevention / public fire education is conducted as follows:

- Fire Prevention Week Program addresses fire and accident prevention at the Bellevue Elementary School and the Valley Christian Academy through the efforts of the Wood River Fire Protection District.
- The Bellevue Fire Chief has implemented a program of fire inspections at businesses but is limited by time constraints of working another job that is fulltime.

What would you like to see implemented regarding Fire Prevention/Public Fire Safety Education?

- Encourage “Firewise” building and safety practices in the community.
- Develop a coalition between city staffers (fire, building and planning) to obtain a Firewise Community.
- Additional resources to accomplish plan review, building and fire safety inspections.
- Provide Firewise Community Education workshop/meetings.

Communications

- Interoperability of communications of all agencies is in dire need of equipment and procedures to insure the safety of all responders and the public.
- Agencies operate on different frequencies and in the short term a radio operational plan is being devised to help overcome some deficiencies in this area. (See attachment)
- E911 is being implemented through a phone levy within Blaine County. The monies currently available do not meet the needs of the agencies to overcome the interoperability problem between police, fire, emergency medical services and the federal agencies. This will be compounded when the federal agencies meet the federal mandate to switch to narrow band digital technology by 2005¹. Rural agencies currently possess wide band equipment.
- Mobile Data Technology is not available for vehicle response to incidents, which would provide mapping, history of prior incidents and most importantly visual acknowledgement of the necessary response information such as address, situation status, water source location and any other responding units. This would greatly reduce the amount of radio traffic and insure acknowledgment of correct information.
- The current frequencies are set aside as National Fire Mutual Aid frequencies:
 - 154.265 (Red)
 - 154.280 (White)
 - 154.295 (Blue)

Current Code Analysis

- Current adopted codes are the International Fire and Building Codes.
- A fireworks provision requires a permit to sell fireworks and limits the dates of sale and use of those fireworks. Sale of fireworks is limited to “Non-aerial Common Fireworks only”.
- Current building codes do not take into consideration the impact of the wildland/interface problem as it relates to exterior construction and the use of solid wood products for roofing materials.
- The fire flow requirements of Appendix B of the International Fire Code are used.

¹National Wildland Coordinating Group, Meeting Minutes, Nov 14-15 2000, Boise, ID

- As a part of Blaine County, Bellevue is designated as a “Community at Risk” from wildfire in the list of such communities in the Federal Register.
- The current Building Code does not address the issues of the threat of wildfire in the interface zone as it relates to exterior construction.
- Discussion with the fire official raised the issue of the lack of resources to adequately monitor and enforce code violations.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Firefighters are required to be equipped with Personal Protective Equipment that meets the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1977. This includes a fire resistant shirt and pants, helmet, eye protection, leather gloves, 8” tall lace up leather boots and a fire shelter. It is recommended that each person have a backpack for personal equipment and at least 2 quarts of drinking water.
- It is recommended that a cache of ten percent of all Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be available for replacement of PPE that becomes unserviceable at an incident.
- Approximately eleven sets of Personal Protective Equipment are required to outfit the current staff with two additional sets required for replacement at an incident
- Additional funding will be required to increase the number of sets of Personal Protective Equipment required on an annual basis.

Wildland Urban Interface Apparatus

TYPE	UNIT ID	MODEL	USEFUL LIFE	CAFS	Tank	Pump
T1	ENGINE 1	1985 FMC Pumper	1 Year	NO	1000	1000
WE6	WE ENGINE	1986 FORD 350	2 Years	NO	250	250
WT3	TENDER	1992 INTER	7 Years	NO	1800	500

Command Vehicles

COMMAND	1998	4x4 FORD	9 Years
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The above wildland apparatus meet the standard established by the National Wildland Coordinating Group (see attachment) for pumps, tanks and equipment but are deficient in meeting the current National Fire Protection Association Standard 1901 for Fire Apparatus.

Wildland Equipment

- It is suggested that the department become involved with the Bureau of Land Management Rural Grant Assist Program for ongoing replacement of Personal Protection Equipment. ³
- Funding can be an issue as the federal budget priorities shift.

Federal and Rural Fire Agency Interoperability

- Consider joining the establishment of the Bald Mountain Wildland Fire Coordinating Workgroup consisting of US Forest Service-Sawtooth National Forest, Bureau of Land Management-Upper Snake River District, Wood River Fire Protection District, Bellevue Department of Public Safety, Hailey Fire Department, Ketchum Fire Department, Ketchum Fire District, US Forest Service-Sawtooth Helitack, Friedman Memorial Airport Rescue Fire Fighting, Sawtooth Valley Fire District, Department Of Interior-Craters of the Moon National Monument, Carey Fire District, West Magic Fire District, South Central Idaho Fire Cooperative and Sun Valley Fire Department.

³ BLM Rural Assist Grant

- A Draft Plan has been proposed by Chief Schwab of Ketchum to establish the Bald Mountain Wildland Coordinating Group and meet monthly through the months of January thru September.
- The Host Agency should be prepared to present a predetermined topic for discussion by the group.
- The purpose of the meetings is to foster greater cooperation and bring all members up-to-date on wildland urban interface issues throughout the region.

See Bald Mountain Wildland Fire Workgroup, Chief Schwab 2/24/04

Staffing

- Recruitment and retention of volunteers is an on-going problem.
- There is the loss of daytime volunteers, as they tend to work out of the area.

Facilities for housing apparatus and personnel

- The current fire station was built in 1938 as a county maintenance facility and does not meet the current needs of a modern fire department. Two bays are currently owned by the city, which are inadequate to house even the current equipment. The owner of the other two bays has loaned them to the fire department for storage of apparatus and equipment. The station lacks accommodations for all genders and is need of repair due to being hit by a private vehicle. There is inadequate classroom space in the facility with proper light and heat for the purpose.

Fuel Loading

- See mapping provided by Alpine Enterprises Inc.
- Chief Cannon has a special concern regarding the fuel loading along the river with dense cottonwoods especially in Howard Park. This has been the location of previous fires, which have threatened homes.

IDAHO SURVEY AND RATING BUREAU CLASSIFICATION

The Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau assigns fire protection classes to the City of Bellevue for the purposes of establishing advisory insurance rates. Class 1 is the most favorable rate with Class 10 being unprotected.

In the City of Bellevue:

- Class 6 applies to all properties within 600 feet of an approved fire hydrant served by the Bellevue Water System.

The classification results are not a comprehensive review of all aspects of a public fire protection program and should not be used for purposes other than insurance pricing. Many factors concerning life and property safety need a more complete analysis to address the community fire problem. The survey does not differentiate between properties in an urban setting versus a wildland/urban setting. However the individual insurance companies will likely attach a surcharge to insurance premiums for homes with a solid wood product roof.

The rating schedule does not differentiate between communities having 9-1-1 and Enhanced 9-1-1. Enhanced 9-1-1 improves life and property protection many times over by providing quick access to the location of the caller reporting the emergency. The rating system is silent also on the issue of interoperability of communications between all agencies, which is necessary for the large-scale

conflagrations in the wildland/urban intermix. There are many other areas of fire protection not evaluated to the extent needed to give a community its life and property safety rating.

The schedule is a good indicator of many needs for fire protection. The Bellevue survey shows that fire department improvements having the most impact on lowering insurance rates would be:

5. Add to the number of volunteer personnel.
6. Improve Training and documentation.
7. Increase pump capacity with additional equipment that will also improve credit for Engine Companies.
8. Improve the distribution of companies throughout the district.
9. Bellevue has considered consolidation of fire services in the past. Consolidation would have a synergistic effect on the personnel count of a single entity. An additional synergistic effect could be obtained by consolidation of apparatus at properly located stations to overcome the issue of company distribution.

Keep in mind the above improvements would impact insurance rates not necessarily life safety. The primary concern of Fire Districts is life safety and additional improvements are sometimes needed to meet the challenges of fire in that regard. Wildland Interface problems increase the need for specialized interface apparatus, water supplies and trained personnel to combat fires in the initial stages. This helps prevent conflagrations and allows for orderly evacuation of people and the response of outside agencies.

Possible considerations to reducing the deficiencies in Water Supply and Additional Personnel

5. Extend the water lines to place a hydrant within 600 feet of protected properties.
6. Develop a recruiting program and provide rewards and recognition to current and new members that increase retention.

Fire and Building Codes and the Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau

Fire and building codes are not a part of the Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau rating consideration. County code officials have a strong desire to improve fire and building codes to address the urban interface problem. They note many problems with the allowed roof coverings, exterior siding, minimal clear zones, minimal access requirements and the shortage of enforcement resources. Establishment of fuel mapping can possibly lead to the enactment of a “Wildland/Urban Interface Code” adopted by many other jurisdictions in the interface.

CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES OF AREA FIRE AGENCIES

West Magic Fire Protection District Commissioners Clint Kisler, Don Grubb, Secretary/Treasurer Stacy McLaughlin, Fire Chief Clint Kisler

The West Magic Fire District protects an area on the west side of Magic Reservoir which includes Blaine and Camas Counties. Clint Kisler is the Fire Chief.

The area protected consists of one commercial eating and drinking establishment with fire sprinklers and residential properties in a *rural* environment (less than 400 people per square mile) with a Wildland/Urban Interface and Wildland/Urban Intermix as defined in the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1143.

The personnel of the district consist of approximately 16 volunteer personnel operating out of a single station. The personnel are of varied age, abilities and skill levels. Approximately nine (9) personnel are capable of performing all the duties required of a firefighter. The remaining personnel may operate vehicles and perform support functions. The department participates in the County Mutual Aid Plan. The location of the Fire Station is on Pioneer Drive in the West Shore Estates Subdivision.

The apparatus of the department is one (1) Type I Structure Engine, (2) Type 6 Wildland Engines and (1) Type 3 Water Tender. The structure engine is in need of all the tools, hose and equipment required by National Fire Protection Association Standard 1901. The wildland engines are equipped as required.

Sixteen personnel have completed basic wildland training. All firefighters are encouraged to attend classes presented by the Southeastern Idaho Cooperative to obtain certifications as desired. Two firefighters have completed the State of Idaho Essentials of Firefighting Course presented in Blaine County.

Classes are scheduled to be conducted by the South Central Idaho Cooperators (SCIC) in Bellevue. This was determined following a survey conducted of all Blaine County Cooperators. The survey noted that of all the students throughout the SCIC the majority was located in Blaine County. This led to the establishment of classes within Blaine County.

Some noted obstacles to wildland training with the Cooperative are:

- Time constraints of volunteers are tight given their commitment to fulltime jobs and families
- West Magic is distant to all other areas where classes will more likely be held.

Desired outcomes of the Fire Mitigation Plan:

- Improve Firefighter Safety
- Target Fire Hazards and Risks
- Reduce Wildland/Urban Interface Risk through fuel reduction.
- Bring building officials, planners and fire officials together.
- Improve the public's awareness of the Wildland Interface Risk.
- Establish better code compliance with local ordinances.
- Bring contractors, architects, landscape architects and fire officials together.
- Create a greater awareness and compliance with the National Fire Plan, fire and building codes, and the wildland fire risk.
- Determine the need for water supply improvements.

- Improve fire agency Interoperability between federal and local levels.
- Provide solutions to the limitations of the Emergency Communications system.
- Reduce fuel loading especially along roadways and fire vehicle access.
- Help adapt the fire service to the unique area of West Magic.
- Streamline and standardize Wildland Fire Training for all agencies.
- Show the impact of fire on the economy.

Currently fire prevention/public fire education is conducted as follows:

- The District provides handouts on fire prevention to the local residents and posts fire information around the core area and at the fire station.

What would you like to see implemented regarding fire prevention/public fire safety education?

- Encourage “Firewise” building and safety practices in the community.
- Continue the coalition between the fire district and the Blaine County Building Official/Fire Official to obtain a Firewise Community.

Communications

- The West Magic Fire District currently uses a phone tree to notify volunteers in the event of a fire. 9-1-1 calls are routed to Blaine County Dispatch or The Southern Idaho Regional Communications Center in Jerome, Idaho. The agency receiving the emergency call is to then notify a person on the fire district call list. A community fire siren was found that was left from the original dam construction. It is not yet known if the siren works but a pole has been erected to mount it on. The siren activation method will need to be determined if the siren proves useable. Activation of the siren from the dispatch centers and locally would provide needed redundancy.
- Currently no radios or pagers are available to any of the members. The district is expecting to receive three portable radios in the next few weeks. The one fire vehicle does have a radio that operates on the Wood River Fire District frequency while there are no radio communications capabilities for the other vehicles.
- A pager system would be a good improvement to the emergency notification system. The pagers would need to be able to be activated by both dispatch centers unless all calls are directed to a single center. The proposed Blaine County Enhanced 9-1-1 Center may include Camas County if an agreement is worked out.
- The lack of radios and pagers in the West Magic Fire District is a major threat to firefighter safety and community protection.
- Interoperability of communications of all agencies is in dire need of equipment and procedures to insure the safety of all responders and the public.
- Agencies operate on different frequencies and in the short term a radio operational plan is being devised to help overcome some deficiencies in this area. (See attachment)
- E911 is being implemented through a phone levy within Blaine County. The monies currently available do not meet the needs of the agencies to overcome the interoperability problem between police, fire, emergency medical services and the federal agencies. This will be compounded when the federal agencies meet the federal mandate to switch to narrow band digital technology by 2005¹. Rural agencies currently possess wide band equipment.

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- Mobile Data Technology is not available for vehicle response to incidents, which would provide mapping, history of prior incidents and most importantly visual acknowledgement of the necessary response information such as address, situation status, water source location and any other responding units. This would greatly reduce the amount of radio traffic and insure acknowledgment of correct information.
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- Current adopted codes are the International Fire and Building Codes.
- A fireworks provision requires a permit to sell fireworks and limits the dates of sale and use of those fireworks. Sale of fireworks is limited to “Non-aerial Common Fireworks only”.
- Current building codes do not take into consideration the impact of the wildland/interface problem as it relates to exterior construction and the use of solid wood products for roofing materials.
- The fire flow requirements of Appendix B of the International Fire Code are used.
- The Blaine County area covered by the West Magic Fire District is a “Community at Risk” from wildfire in the list of such communities in the Federal Register.
- The current Building Code does not address the issues of the threat of wildfire in the interface zone as it relates to exterior construction.
- The fire district does not yet have an active fire inspection program due to lack of time of its volunteers and its recent formation.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Firefighters are required to be equipped with Personal Protective Equipment that meets the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1977. This includes a fire resistant shirt and pants, helmet, eye protection, leather gloves, 8” tall lace up leather boots and a fire shelter. It is recommended that each person have a backpack for personal equipment and at least 2 quarts of drinking water.

- It is recommended that a cache of ten percent of all Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be available for replacement of PPE that becomes unserviceable at an incident.
- Approximately 31 sets of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are required to outfit the current staff with three additional sets required for replacement at an incident. The district currently has PPE for the 9 active firefighters but none for the support personnel.
- Additional funding will be required to increase the number of sets of Personal Protective Equipment required on an annual basis.

Wildland Urban Interface Apparatus

TYPE	UNIT ID	MODEL	USEFUL LIFE	CAFS	Tank	Pump
E-1	Engine 1	1978 Seagrave	0	No	750	1000
T-2	1500 Tanker	1987 Am Gen	2	No	1200	300
WE-6	Wildland Engine	1976 GMC	0	No	300	350
WE-6	Wildland Engine	1976 GMC	0	No	300	350

The above apparatus are deficient in meeting the current National Fire Protection Association Standard 1901 Standard for Fire Apparatus and the Type I Structural Engine lacks hose and equipment. It is

recommended that a replacement plan and schedule be developed to replace apparatus and equipment through the Fire Act Grant and Bureau of Land Management Rural Grant Assistance Program.

Wildland Equipment

- The district is involved with the Bureau of Land Management Rural Grant Assist Program for ongoing replacement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). ³ The district is regularly applying for equipment and PPE through the grant program to equip all personnel.
- Funding can be an issue as the federal budget priorities shift.

Federal and Rural Fire Agency Interoperability

- Consider joining the establishment of the Bald Mountain Wildland Fire Coordinating Workgroup consisting of US Forest Service-Sawtooth NF, Bureau of Land Management-Upper Snake River District, Wood River Fire Protection District, Bellevue Department of Public Safety, Hailey Fire Department, Ketchum Fire Department, Ketchum Fire District, US Forest Service-Sawtooth Helitack, Friedman Memorial Airport Rescue Fire Fighting, Sawtooth Valley Fire District, Department Of Interior-Craters of the Moon National Monument, Carey Fire District, West Magic Fire District, South Central Idaho Fire Cooperative and Sun Valley Fire Department.
- A Draft Plan has been proposed by Chief Schwab of Ketchum to establish the Bald Mountain Wildland Coordinating Group and meet monthly through the months of January thru September. See *Bald Mountain Wildland Fire Workgroup*, Chief Schwab 2/24/04
- The Host Agency should be prepared to present a predetermined topic for discussion by the group.
- The purpose of the meetings is to foster greater cooperation and bring all members up-to-date on wildland urban interface issues throughout the region.

Staffing

- Recruitment and retention of volunteers is an on-going problem. The district population has a shortage of citizens meeting the physical standards required for firefighting.
- There is the loss of daytime volunteers, as they tend to work out of the area.

Facilities for housing apparatus and personnel

- The existing fire station was recently built but is not large enough to house all the apparatus and has no facility for a training classroom. The district now owns property to build an additional fire station on. The Board of Fire Commissioners is considering approaching this project through a lease purchase or grant funding.

Fuel Loading

- See mapping provided by Alpine Enterprises Inc.
- Fuels consist of grasslands and large sagebrush which are allowed to extend to the edge of all roadways. This situation is particularly hazardous to firefighters and people using the roadways during firefighting operations and evacuation.

Roadway Access and Addressing

- **Roadway access is limited by roads which are many times as narrow as ten (10) feet. The fuels extend along the edges of roadways. Roads to several areas are not plowed in the winter and the only access is by snowmobile.**

³ BLM Rural Assist Grant

- Access roadways need to be widened to a minimum of twenty (20) feet and fuel reduction accomplished along both sides.
- Addressing and road signage needs to be enforced per the International Fire Code.

IDAHO SURVEY AND RATING BUREAU CLASSIFICATION

The Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau assigns fire protection classes to areas for the purposes of establishing advisory insurance rates. Class 1 is the most favorable rate with Class 10 being unprotected.

In the West Magic Fire District:

- Class 10 currently applies to all properties.

The classification results are not a comprehensive review of all aspects of a public fire protection program and should not be used for purposes other than insurance pricing. Many factors concerning life and property safety need a more complete analysis to address the community fire problem. The survey does not differentiate between properties in an urban setting versus a wildland/urban setting. However the individual insurance companies will likely attach a surcharge to insurance premiums for homes with a solid wood product roof.

The rating schedule does not differentiate between communities having 9-1-1 and Enhanced 9-1-1. Enhanced 9-1-1 improves life and property protection many times over by providing quick access to the location of the caller reporting the emergency. The rating system is silent also on the issue of interoperability of communications between all agencies, which is necessary for the large-scale conflagrations in the wildland/urban intermix. There are many other areas of fire protection not evaluated to the extent needed to give a community its life and property safety rating.

The schedule is a good indicator of many needs for fire protection. The improvements having the most impact on lowering insurance rates in the West Magic Fire Protection District would be:

10. Establish an approved fire hydrant water supply system.
11. Add to the number of volunteer personnel.
12. Improve Training and documentation.
13. Acquire fire apparatus meeting the National Fire Protection Association Standard 1901 with appropriate pump capacity.
14. Obtain pagers and radios for apparatus and personnel.

The above improvements would impact insurance rates, property conservation and life safety. Wildland Interface problems increase the need for specialized interface apparatus, water supplies and trained personnel to combat fires in the initial stages. This helps prevent conflagrations and allows for the orderly evacuation of people and the response of outside agencies.

Possible considerations to reducing the deficiencies in Water Supply, Apparatus, Communications and Additional Personnel

7. Develop an adequate water supply and extend the water lines to place a hydrant within 600 feet of protected properties.
8. Develop training program delivery that meets the needs of volunteers.
9. Create a master plan for apparatus replacement and acquisition and apply for grants through the Fire Act and other grant providers.
10. Acquire communications equipment for all vehicles and personnel utilizing grant programs and local funding.

Fire and Building Codes and the Idaho Survey and Ranking Bureau

Fire and building codes are not a part of the Idaho Survey and Ranking Bureau rating consideration. County code officials have a strong desire to improve fire and building codes to address the urban interface problem. They note many problems with the allowed roof coverings, exterior siding, minimal clear zones, minimal access requirements and the shortage of enforcement resources. Establishment of fuel mapping can possibly lead to the enactment of a “Wildland/Urban Interface Code” adopted by many other jurisdictions in the interface. All fire districts should participate in the development of a county-wide building and fire code ordinance.

CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES OF AREA FIRE AGENCIES

Smiley Creek Fire Protection District Commissioners are to be confirmed and appointed by the Governor

An election was held on August 3, 2004 approving the establishment of The Smiley Creek Fire Protection District. On August 21, 2004 three names were submitted to the Governor for confirmation as the district’s first fire commissioners. Approval of the district by the State Tax Commission is pending.

The Smiley Creek Fire Protection District encompasses an area shown on the map titled “Smiley Creek Fire Protection District”. Sawtooth City comprises the majority of the fire district with two subdivisions south of the city also being included.

Sawtooth City and surrounding areas protected by the Smiley Creek Fire Protection District have identified initial needs for fire infrastructure, apparatus and equipment to protect the homes and properties against the spread of wildland fire.

This newly formed district is in need of a fire apparatus that complies with National Fire Protection Association Standard 1901. This apparatus, once obtained through appropriate and available funding sources, would be used for fire protection and for obtaining approval by the Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau for fire insurance purposes. In order for the apparatus to be recognized by the Idaho Survey and Rating Bureau funds would be needed to build a fire station to properly house the apparatus. The fire station would be required to be heated with all access roadways regularly plowed and maintained.

Additionally, the locally available water supply is currently not adequate for fire fighting. The District is in need of a water supply that is capable of a minimum of 1,000 gallons per minute for a two-hour duration.

- Currently the District is in need of funding to begin providing firefighters with all of the Personal Protective Equipment - including clothing, self-contained breathing apparatus, training and radios - that is critical and necessary for firefighter safety.

Desired Outcomes of the Fire Mitigation Plan for the Smiley Creek Fire Protection District:

- Develop the infrastructure for the Smiley Creek Fire Protection District.
- Target Fire Hazards and Risks
- Reduce Wildland/Urban Interface Risk
- Reduce fuel loading
- Reduce fuel loading – particularly where “red trees” – beetle infested lodge pole pines are adjacent to homes and lodges

- Help adapt fire services to the growth of the Stanley Basin.
- Obtain funds and loans to obtain fire fighting equipment.
- Continue to work closely with the Forest Service on fuels reduction efforts in the Wildland/Urban Interface and Intermix
- Coordinate fire mitigation projects with Forest Service prescriptions for fuels reduction on adjacent public lands
- Adopt a countywide code that is appropriate for the Wildland/Urban Interface and Intermix zones.
- Improve enforcement of fireworks regulations regarding the use of illegal fireworks
- Recognize and utilize Class A fire resistive building materials
- Work with Forest Service through the National Environmental Policy Act process to determine and confirm location of water supply for the Smiley Creek Fire Protection District. This water supply should meet minimum 120,000 gallon for wildland and structural fire protection.

CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES OF AREA FIRE AGENCIES **The Ketchum Rural Fire Protection District–Chief Greg Schwab.**

The combined Ketchum agencies protect rural areas surrounding Ketchum that are within the Ketchum Rural Fire Protection District and the City of Ketchum through a joint use of apparatus, personnel and facilities.

The area protected within the Ketchum Rural Fire Protection District consists mainly of high value residential properties in a ***rural*** environment (less than 400 persons per square mile). There are several grand fathered non-conforming light industrial uses and a conforming hospital use.

The area protected within the City of Ketchum consists of commercial and residential properties in a ***suburban*** environment (400-2000 persons per square mile) with a wildland urban interface and wildland urban intermix as defined in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1143.

The personnel of the district/department consist of 50 personnel operating out of three stations. Eleven of the personnel are fulltime career employees. The department also provides Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response and transport responsibilities to North Blaine County at the Paramedic Level.

The Headquarters Station is located in the City of Ketchum. Station 3 is located north of Ketchum on Highway 75 near the entrance to the Hulen Meadows Subdivision. Station 2 is located south of Ketchum on Highway 75 across from the Greenhorn Gulch Road.

Desired outcomes of the Fire Mitigation Plan:

- **Continue with Fire Mitigation Plan as outlined in Ketchum Rural Fire Protection District’s specific Fire Mitigation Plan.**

CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES OF AREA FIRE AGENCIES **Wood River Fire Protection District – Chief Bart Lassman.**

The Wood River Fire Protection District provides fire protection to approximately 150 square miles of property in southern Blaine County. The boundaries of the District run roughly from the Greenhorn Bridge in the north to Baseline Road in the south excluding the cities of Hailey and Bellevue. The area protected within the rural fire district consists of high value and moderate value residential properties in a

rural environment (less than 400 persons per square mile). There are numerous agriculture uses and farmlands in the district.

The personnel of the district consist of 34 personnel operating out of three stations. Ten of the personnel are fulltime career employees. The department also provides EMS response and transport responsibilities to South Blaine County at the Paramedic Level.

The location of the Headquarters Station and Station 2 are located in the City of Hailey. Station 3 is located south of Bellevue on Highway 75 and is shared with the Bureau of Land Management Fire Resources.

Desired outcomes of the Fire Mitigation Plan:

- **Continue with Fire Mitigation Plan as outlined in Wood River Fire Protection District – City of Hailey Fire Department’s specific Fire Mitigation Plan.**

CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES OF AREA FIRE AGENCIES
The City of Hailey Fire Department – Chief Mike Chapman

The department protects the City of Hailey consisting of commercial and residential properties in a *suburban* environment (400-2000 people per square mile) with a wildland urban interface and wildland urban intermix as defined in NFPA 1143. The current population of Hailey is 7,500 covering 5.5 square miles as reported by Assistant Chief Carl Hjelm. This equates to 1364 persons per square mile.

The City of Hailey Fire Department’s jurisdiction includes the Friedman Memorial Airport. The airport has been used as a heliport and a Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) refilling site for wildland fire incidents.

The City of Hailey Fire Department consists of 26 personnel operating out of one fire station located approximately one-half mile north of the center of the current fire response boundaries.

Desired outcomes of the Fire Mitigation Plan:

- **Continue with Fire Mitigation Plan as outlined in Wood River Fire Protection District – City of Hailey Fire Department’s specific Fire Mitigation Plan.**

All other outlying private properties in the Blaine County not within a fire agency are under the jurisdiction of Fire Marshal Bill Dyer.

Structures and private property within outlying areas are not currently protected by any organized fire response unit. All of the unprotected areas of Blaine County are covered by the Fire and Building Codes adopted by the county. The codes are enforced by the County Building Official who is the Fire Marshal for the unprotected areas

Fire prevention efforts available for areas that are currently unprotected by a fire agency include the requirement that property owners meet the standards of the fire and building codes for Blaine County.

Properties outside of a fire protection district should be encouraged through this fire mitigation planning process to petition for inclusion within a neighboring fire protection district. There may be instances where annexation is not feasible due to distance or terrain. In those cases first aid and firefighting equipment should be required along with strict compliance with Firewise Building Practices.

Desired Outcomes of the Fire Mitigation Plan for all other outlying Blaine County areas:

- Target Fire Hazards and Risks
- Reduce Wildland/Urban Interface Risk
- Reduce fuel loading
- Coordinate fire mitigation projects with Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management prescriptions for fuels reduction on adjacent public lands
- Adopt a countywide code that is appropriate for Wildland/Urban Interface and Intermix zones. Improve enforcement of fireworks regulations regarding the use of illegal fireworks.